



# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter

March 2023 Term 1

## Message from the Head of Campus



Welcome to the latest edition of SOTA Speak where we celebrate the positive aspects of this term.

After a joyful Induction Week at Port Augusta, it was wonderful to catch up in Woomera for School Experience Week. Our sincere thanks to Woomera Area School principal, Ms Ann O'Sullivan, staff and students for the warm and generous welcome to their school. Seeing SOTA students interacting with students from Woomera Area School and Andamooka was a delightful treat. The 100 metres long corridor and the wide range of facilities of the school impressed all of us. In between the learning activities organised by teachers, Australian Space Discovery Centre and Defence, our Years 3, 5 and 7 students also completed NAPLAN. A special mention must go to our year 1 student, Honey-May for coming to Woomera without her mother and was well looked after by Paulaine's family. How fast do they grow!

The students, supervisors and parents also met our new itinerant teacher, Mr Myles at Woomera. He has been a helpful addition to the school and looks forward to getting offroad. Mr Myles had a glimpse of how some SOTA students learn in his whirlwind visit to Holowiliena and Upalinna in his first week at work. Having just recently completed his 4WD training, he is

making his way to Nilpinna with Ms Megan and Miss Kaur. He'll make his first solo offroad visit next week.

As we head towards the end of Term 1, we are encouraged by an over 92% average attendance rate, supervisor survey results that indicate students are engaging well on WebEx, full team of teachers and how well staff, supervisors and parents are working together in their care of SOTA children learning and wellbeing. Our week in Woomera also impressed on us the generous service that many parents and governesses give to SOTA. Big thanks to the governesses who happily took complete responsibilities of recess and lunch, and supported the teachers in every way possible. As well, several parents, notably Candice who went out of her way to secure donation from Woolworths and picked up a trailer load of grocery from Roxby Downs for the students. When stakeholders work together, progress and positive wellbeing can be achieved.

It takes the collective effort of students, teachers, staff, parents, and volunteers to create a thriving and successful learning environment, and I am grateful for the contributions of each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, dedication, and hard work make our school a special place where students can grow, learn, and flourish. I am moved by your passion and service, and grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for all that you do to make our school a truly special place.

Best wishes  
Lai Kuan Lim



## Events

Good Friday Public Holiday: **7 April**

Easter Monday Public Holiday: **10 April**

School Holidays: **15 - 30 April**

Canberra Camp: **1 – 5 May**

Camp: **3-7 July**

Mini Schools: **25 - 29 September**

Get Together: **8 - 9 December**

OPFA: Week 3 (T2) Wednesday 10 May.

CGC: Week 4 (T2) Wednesday 17 May

## Premier's Be Active Challenge

The Premier's *be active* Challenge is about encouraging students to be more active, more often. Participants are rewarded with medals if they complete at least 60 minutes of physical activity on at least 5 days per week for at least 4 weeks. Information can be found at [www.pbac.sa.edu.au](http://www.pbac.sa.edu.au)

## Student Free Days

June 13<sup>th</sup>

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** (correction from July 7<sup>th</sup>)

## Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) was introduced in 2004 to encourage reading and improve literacy levels. To achieve a PRC award, students must read at least 12 books in the beginning of the school year to early September. 8 of these books must be from the PRC [booklist](#). Last year, 31 SOTA students received PRC certificates at SOTA's Awards Night.

## OPFA and SOTA CGC

### Outback Parents and Friends Association (OPFA)

An opportunity for the parents, supervisors and staff of students enrolled with the Port Augusta School of the Air (SOTA) to discuss any aspects associated with the school.

### SOTA Committee of Governing Council (CGC)

The SOTA CGC discuss governance issues that require further discussion from OPFA meetings.

**OPFA/CGC upcoming meeting dates**

**All meetings at 3:30pm**

PRC is coordinated by our school librarians. For more information, you could ask them directly on Wednesday assembly or by email and phone:

Email: [library@openaccess.edu.au](mailto:library@openaccess.edu.au)

Mobile: 08 8309 3500: Option 5

Improving reading is our Site Improvement Plan (SIP) goal. Reading expands children's imagination of the world and gives them access to a range of perspectives on the power of nature, people and creativity. However, to develop avid readers requires encouragement and support by families and schools. Let's work together to foster an interest towards reading, especially reading for pleasure.



## SOTA Book Club

Student Council is running SOTA Book Club to share great books with the community. To kickstart the initiative, here are two book recommendations by the Learning Leaders:

Title: Dragon Slippers  
Author: Jessica Day George  
Reviewer: Stella, Year 7

What's it about: This is the tale of a girl who is sent off as a sacrifice to the dragon on the hill. When the girl meets the dragon they become friends. On her journey to become a dress maker she meets many other dragons, a prince and a shop girl who she becomes fast friends with. When a war breaks out, they have to fight for their lives.

Age recommendation: 8 and up. Younger children may find the reading tough.

Title: The Silver Brumby Series  
Author: Elynne Mitchell  
Reviewer: Winsome, Year 6

What's it about: It is about a silver brumby called Thowra growing up in the Snowy Mountains. It follows his adventures and battles to become the King of the Brumbies, and his fight against man capturing him.

Age recommendation: 9 and up

Rating: 10/10! I have read book one, I love it and I'm going to read more. I highly recommend.

If you have read a good book that is worth sharing with the school, please email your review to Lai Kuan for publication in the next SOTA Speak.

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## Connellan Airways Trust

A big thank you is extended to Connellan Airways Trust for the generous grant that families received to assist with the cost toward the 2023 Canberra Camp.





#### Term 1 Week 4

Miss Emma:

Emmett for working really hard on his number formation and his amazing wombat drawing.

Miss Jo:

Jack for using his Growth Mindset and challenging himself in his learning.

Miss Morley:

George for actively participating in class discussions, for being engaged on task in breakout rooms, and for always having a try at answering questions.

Miss Kaur:

Lachie for always being focused on the task, doing his best listening and asking great questions related to the task.

Ms Mel:

Abby for her diligence shown toward all areas of her learning.

#### Term 1 Week 7

Miss Emma:

Beau for putting in a great effort on his science labelling task including sounding out all of the body parts.

Miss Jo:

Honey-May for showing increased focus and participation on WebEx lessons. Keep up the great work!

Miss Morley:

Bonnie for her creative narrative writing and thorough practice in preparation for NAPLAN.

Miss Kaur:

Nelson has been awarded this certificate for participating in lessons and trying his best to finish his follow up tasks on time.

Ms Mel:

Jacob for his outstanding participation and leadership when working in breakout rooms.



## RICE Preschool

What a busy first term our preschool children have had. They have investigated the topics ‘all about me’, ‘my family’ and ‘where do I live?’ Next on their learning journey was fairy tales: The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Gingerbread Man and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Children constructed houses, explored concepts, followed a recipe, and built bridges that a horrible troll lived under.

All children had a home visit this term. With the day focusing on numeracy, colours, concepts, and gross motor skills. My travelling adventures took me to Nonning Station, Evelyn Downs Station, Peake Station and Blinman.

Children will finish off the term with more fairy tale stories and social experiences in the form of play days. With one at Nonning in week 9 and Blinman in week 10. The first being held at Woomera while SOTA children attended school.



## Mr Myles

Hello students and families, allow me to introduce myself. I am Myles Ryan or Mr Myles and I am the new itinerant teacher starting at Open Access College Port Augusta School of the air.

I have been a teacher for about five years and I have worked in schools in the Northern Territory, Burma, Spain, Colombia and now here in Port Augusta. :)

As a teacher I am easy-going, understanding and interested in making education a positive experience for all involved. I am looking forward to helping my students learn, develop as people and become empowered to succeed in whatever it is they put their minds to.

As a person I like cycling, travelling, camping, working out, playing video games, and cooking. I have spent the past three years of my life in Colombia after getting trapped there when the pandemic hit and I am looking forward to building a life again here in Australia, especially here in Port Augusta as the itinerant teacher for School of the Air.

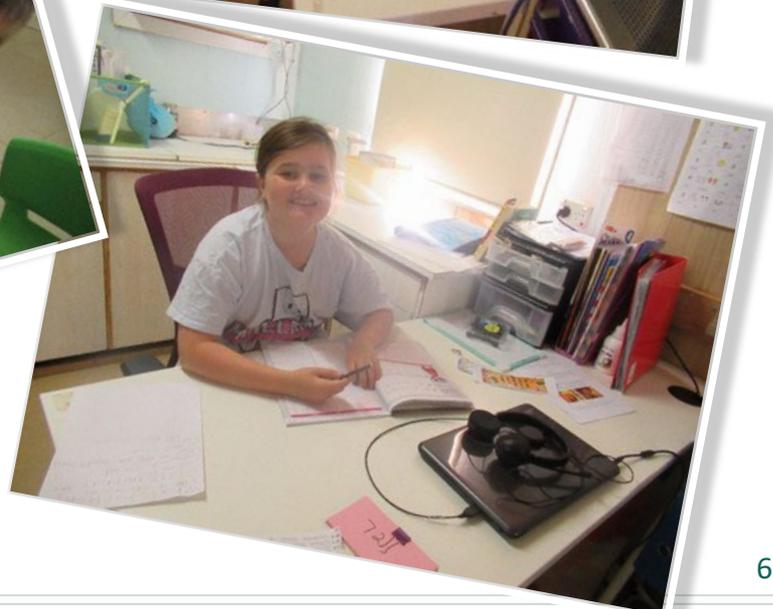


## Miss Megan's Home Visits

Hello again SOTA families. As you can see from these photos, this term continues to be filled with great visits and learning. Our students are trying their best and having fun. Just look at these smiling faces!

From now on, I will be sharing my amazing Itinerant role with Mr Myles. I am very happy to have a companion, again. Visits will be more frequent, and we will be supporting each other to optimise the learning opportunities for every child. I am looking forward to seeing the happy photos he will take along the way.

Miss Megan



# Miss Emma's Reception

We have been learning lots in Reception this Term!

In English we have been learning about our imagination and how we can use our imagination to pretend to be different things. We have been reading the book 'Imagine' by Alison Lester and 'The Magic Hat' by Mem Fox to help guide our learning. We have also been learning our sounds and how we can use our sounds to build words.

We have also used our imagination in drama where we have been learning lots of new drama skills such as role play, freeze frames and hand puppets.

In Maths we have been learning about sorting and patterns. We have been sorting by different features including colour and size. We have started making our own patterns using counters and blocks.

In Science we have been learning about the external features of animals and using our sorting skills to sort animals by their features.

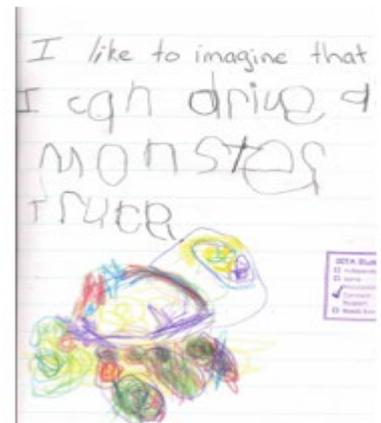
I am very proud of the Reception's amazing work!



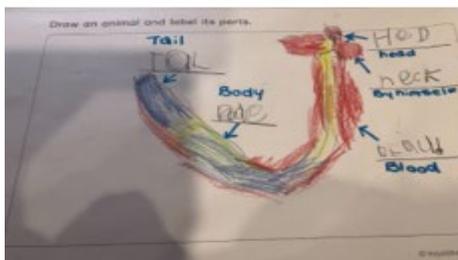
Roy



Remy



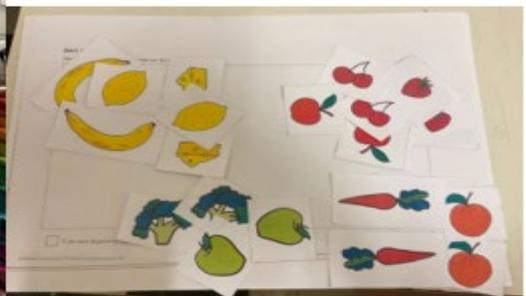
Edward



Beau



Emmett



Eli

# Miss Jo's 1/2

In Science this term we have been focusing on different habitats and the needs of animals. Students had to design a habitat for an animal of their choice and ensure it included – food, water, shelter and air. Check out all of the amazing habitats below. Way to go Year 1/2 Legends!



Alex



Charlie



Dan



Clem



Honey-May



Lisma



Sanaisha

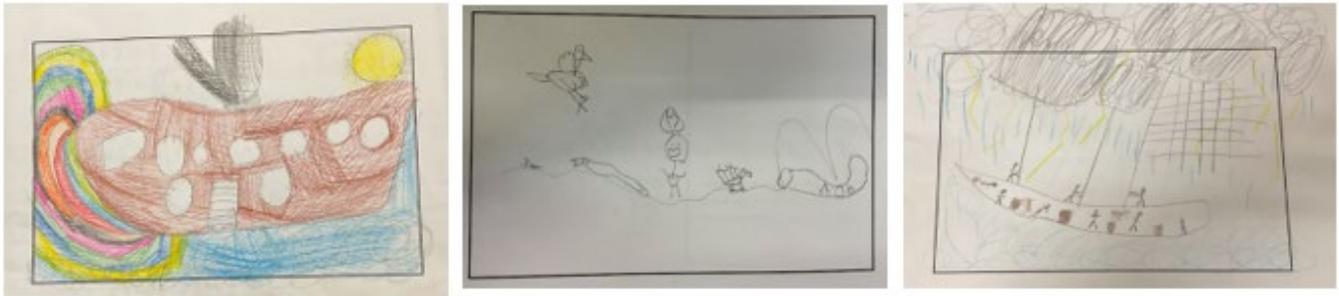


Lilly



Jack





Over this term, we have also been developing our social awareness through the celebration of and participation in events such as World Wildlife Day, International Women’s Day, and Marine Science Day.

Please share in and celebrate with us about our fabulous Year 3/4 learning this Term!

Based on the two videos and the map- Why do you think it is important to learn about World Wildlife Day and endangered animals?

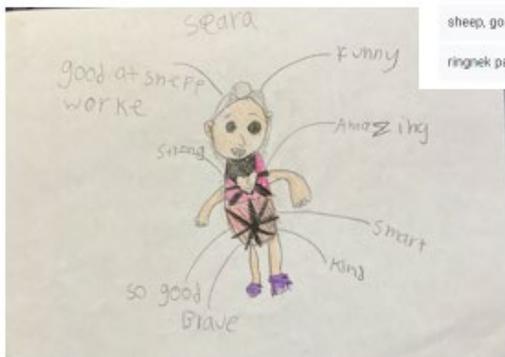
8 responses

- because you need to now what animals are in endangered
- you mite need it one day
- because with out animals evry one will dead
- Because there is danger ⚠️
- s you can help them to not get exyinct
- so you look after the world
- Because if we didn't they would all be dead if we dont look after them all.
- So people can stop hering the animals and there habitat

What animals live around your properties?

8 responses

- cows, dingo, emu, donkey, house,
- kangaroo cows snakes mouse spiders eagles
- dingo,s cows birds wiald turcy wombat enkna
- Sheep 🐏
- horses cows birds yabes
- lizards, birds, horses, cats, dogs, pigs, bees, cattle, kangaroos and emus
- sheep, goats, kangaroos, frilled neck lizards, goannas, snakes, echidnas,
- ringnek parots, kangaroos, sheep, goats emu, lizards, snakes.



Congratulations to our Year 3s who participated in their first NAPLAN last week! Well done on your awesome efforts!

# Miss Kaur's Year 5/6

It's almost the end of Term 1, 2023 and I'm super impressed by all the learning year 5/6 have done so far. In HASS, we have been learning about the federation of Australia. Students designed PowerPoint slides explaining the reasons and main events that led to Australia's federation.

In Science, we have been learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources. Students choose an energy source to research and created a poster explaining key facts about that source.

Nelson

## First Constitutional Convention

- This was the first convention that led to constitution being written. This convention was called the first national Australasian convention. This convention was held on March the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1891 in Sydney. It was run by Samuel Griffith the premier of Queensland at the time.
- There were seven representatives chosen by each of the Australian colonies there was also 2 representatives from New Zealand.



Winsome

## National Pride

- \* By the 1800s many people began to identify as Australian and most of the population had been born in Australia.



## Defence

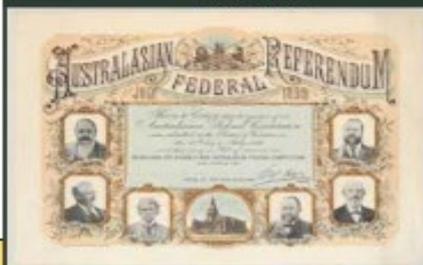
They wanted a stronger army to help defend against the bigger countries.



PJ

## 1893 Corowa Conference

The Corowa conference meeting was for the Federation it was held in 1893 with the new south wales it included the border town of Corowa for the Federation.



Micah

### Wind Energy

**What is the definition?**  
The definition for wind energy is natural energy obtained from circulating the wind with a constant force.

**How does it work?**  
Wind energy works by using the force of the wind to rotate the blades of a wind turbine. The wind turbine is connected to a generator which produces electricity.

**What are the negative effects?**  
The negative effects of wind energy are noise and visual impact. Wind turbines can be noisy and they can be a distraction for some people. They can also be a distraction for some people.

**Where is it produced?**  
Wind energy is produced in many different places around the world. It is produced in the United States, Germany, and Spain.

**Areas in Australia where it is used?**  
Wind energy is used in many different places in Australia. It is used in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, and South Australia.

**What are the positive effects?**  
Wind energy is a clean and renewable source of energy. It does not produce any greenhouse gases and it does not pollute the environment. Wind energy is also a cheap source of energy.

**Lucy**

**James**

**Cody**

## NUCLEAR

Nuclear energy is the energy in the core of an atom.

**Positive**

- Not a significant amount of greenhouse gas or pollutants
- Safer than fossil fuels
- It's a clean energy source

**Negative**

- NON-RENEWABLE
- Uranium is finite and essential for nuclear energy
- Uranium has to be mined

**Oil**

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

**Definition**  
The energy that is released during nuclear fission or fusion to generate energy.

**positive effects**

- One of the most low-carbon energy sources
- It's one of the answers to the climate crisis
- It has one of the smallest carbon footprints

**How it works**  
In the core of nuclear reactors, the fission of uranium atoms releases energy that heats water.

**Areas in Australia where it is used**

- It is used in Lucas Heights.

**Where is it produced**  
Nuclear energy is produced in Lucas Heights (south of Sydney).

**Negative effects**

- Expensive, which is a cost to build
- It's Radio active

Oil is a nonrenewable resource. Oil is used all over Australia as it goes in cars, motorbikes and trucks. It lubricates all engines. Oil spills in the ocean can have a bad effect on marine and wildlife animals.

**Magenta**



**Lachie**

## SOLAR ENERGY

The sun is the source of solar energy. It is a clean and renewable source of energy. Solar energy is used in many different ways, such as solar panels and solar water heaters. Solar energy is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint and save money on your energy bills.

# Ms Mel's Year 7

This term is flying by! The Year 7 students have been busy producing engaging advertisements in English, extensive research projects in Science, conducting self-directed learning in History and solving many Mathematical problems relating to BEDMAS.

Abby & Ruby's advertisement



Stella's Science Information Report

**Project Report: (Misspell)**

**What is a project and what is a project report?**

A project is a task or activity that you do over a period of time. It can be a school project, a hobby, or a business. A project report is a document that you write at the end of a project. It tells the teacher or the people who are interested in your project what you did, how you did it, and what you learned from it.

**How to write a project report:**

1. Write the title of your project.
2. Write the aim of your project.
3. Write the method you used.
4. Write the results you got.
5. Write the conclusion you reached.

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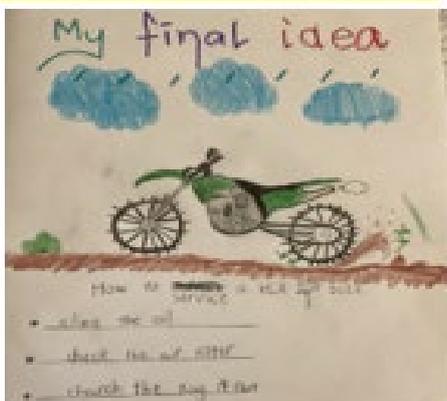
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Aurelia & Jacob's advertisement



Ryder's Passion Project





# SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WEEK @ Woomera Area School

